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THE
WASHINGTON MONUMENT.

SHALL IT BE BUILT?

AN ADDRESS

TO THE
CITIZENS OF NEW YORK,

BY

~~Wm. Oland Bourne~~
I. S. LYON.

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TO THE READER.

THE following little address, on the subject of the Washington Monument, was written in the hope that it might prove instrumental in once more calling the attention of the public to the merits of the subject. It is the hastily written production of a person who makes no pretensions to scholarship, and hence the many errors and imperfections in its composition. I have felt and written warmly on the subject—and all I ask of my fellow citizens is, that it may be read in the same, earnest and candid spirit in which it was written. I claim no merits for it as a literary performance. My principal object has been to endeavor to make the reader THINK and FEEL upon the subject; and should I have succeeded in this, I shall feel that I have been more than compensated for the midnight oil and midnight labor expended in preparing it for publication. And should anything I have said or suggested have a tendency to bring the question once more before the public, I shall rejoice that it was written; but should it meet with no such satisfactory response, I shall still enjoy the heart-felt satisfaction of knowing that I have, in my humble way, performed my duty in the matter.

This pamphlet would have been published two weeks sooner, had I not been deceived by a promise that was never performed; and this is my apology for the delay in its publication.

I. S. L.

NOVEMBER 12th,

ADDRESS.

To the People of the City of New York, without distinction of sex, creed, party or condition.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

I wish to call your earnest and undivided attention, for a few moments, to a subject of great interest and deep concern to every one of you. I wish to have a little plain talk with you about WASHINGTON, and *that* Monument which is yet to be reared to his memory. The time was when considerable feeling was manifested upon this subject—when the excitement ran high, among a *particular class, in certain localities*. Private meetings were held—architects were employed to furnish suitable designs and drawings—advantageous locations were sought after, and even subscription books were talked about: *but no public expression of the popular will was called for; no demonstration of the the public mind and feeling was solicited*. And what was the consequence? The excitement gradually died away; the minds of the people were diverted to other objects; and a calm now rests upon the whole subject, as noiseless and unbroken as that which broods over the the tomb of the Father of his Country, amid the sacred shades of his own peaceful Vernon.

Such being the past and present state of affairs, in relation to this great work of love and patriotism, permit me, then, once more to propound the important question: “Shall the Washington Monument be built?” And, if built, where? when? how? and by whom shall it be built?

With your permission, fellow citizens, I now propose making a few plain, practical and common-sense remarks, in reply to the foregoing interrogatories; and I do most fervently pray that they may awaken a feeling in the public mind that shall not be quieted until the Monument shall have been built, or the project be forever abandoned. Let me exhort you to do either one thing or the other; and that which you resolve to do, do quickly. Let there be no more adjournments to a more convenient season. The thing has been permitted to remain in an undecided state too long already. You will, I doubt not, agree with me, that the time for final action and decision in the matter has arrived, and that longer delay would only expose us to the ridicule of the whole country.

With these few preliminary remarks, I now proceed to the discussion of the main proposition—“Shall the Washington Monument be built?” For one, I am prepared to say that it

shall; and, for the furtherance of such a project, I hold myself ready, at an hour's notice, when applied to by the properly constituted authorities, to contribute as much, according to my means, as any other individual within the bounds of the City corporation. It has always been customary among all civilized nations, from the earliest ages of antiquity down to the present time, to render homage of some kind to all the great master-spirits of their age, who had pre-eminently distinguished themselves in the service of their country. Statesmen who had labored for the public good—Patriots who have fought and bled for home and country—have had monuments, temples, statues, and obelisks, raised to their memory, inscribed with their names, and lettered with the story of their achievements. The people of other countries have caused the "sleeping marble" to leap forth from its native quarries, and pay homage to those of their immortal sons who have nobly distinguished themselves in the cause of their common country. Nelson, Wellington, and Napoleon, have each been honored by a monument, that will transmit their names down to future ages, for the emulation of their most distant posterity. Such tokens of the people's regard for the memory of distinguished national benefactors, have their origin in the noblest feelings of human nature, and are honorable alike to those who rear them, and those for whom they are reared. They bespeak a nation proud of her lineage, and watchful of the fame of such of their countrymen as have rendered their names worthy to be held in overlasting remembrance. And shall our own beloved Washington—the greatest and best man that ever lived—longer remain uncommemorated by a monument worthy the greatness of his name, and the glory of his achievements? Forbid it, Patriotism! Forbid it, National Pride! We have too long been taunted and reproached with the ungracious epithet, "Republics are ungrateful." Let us, then, cease talking, and begin to act. Let us go bravely at work, and, by building a noble monument to the Father of his Country, erase forever this burning stigma from the escutcheon of our national character. The work once commenced would never languish for want of proper nourishment to sustain it.

Fully impressed with the belief that the majority of the people of this city stand ready to pledge their support towards the erection of such a noble work, as soon as convinced of the practicability of the undertaking, I now venture to predict that, in case one more united effort be made, there will be no such thing as failure in the case. Believing that such an effort will soon be made, and that it will be crowned with that certain success which always attends such great undertakings, when the sovereign people take the matter in charge, I shall no longer consider the building of the Washington Monument a question of doubt and uncertainty.

The next question, then, that comes up for discussion is—"Where shall the monument be built?" On this point there are

some honest differences of opinion; and well there might be. Some of our fellow citizens contend that its location should be somewhere in the "Old Dominion." I answer, not in Virginia, for the measure of her glory is already full to overflowing. She has been sufficiently honored in being the birth-place of a host of earth's most gifted and distinguished benefactors. Her's was the high honor to give birth to the Father of his Country, and the Author of the Declaration of Independence; and there, amid the sacred shades of Mount Vernon, and the hallowed precincts of Monticello, their ashes now rest—and there they will remain forever. And though no towering marble marks the spot where their hallowed dust reposes, woe unto the people of Virginia, when they shall forget that beneath their native soil sleeps the mortal remains of two of the most illustrious men that ever lived in the tide of time. Not in Virginia! She needs no monuments of lifeless marble to tell *her* that Washington and Jefferson lived. Their graves will always remain in the midst of her people, and the fame of their glorious achievements will never cease to ring like a trumpet-blast in their ears.

Others have named the capital of the nation, as the most suitable place for such a Monument. The capital itself bears the name of that distinguished personage, whose memory it is intended to commemorate. The City of Washington is a monument itself, which a grateful nation has reared in commemoration of the virtues and patriotism of its most exalted benefactor; and any other token of the nation's gratitude to the founder and father of the Republic, in the District of Columbia, would be quite superfluous. Not in the State of Virginia, with whose soil mingles the ashes of the immortal patriot; not in the Capitol of the Nation, which will forever bear the name of the Father of his Country, should the contemplated monument to Washington, be erected.

The question, then, very naturally recurs to the inquiring mind of the patriot—if not in Virginia, his birth-place, nor in the Capitol, which bears his name—where, then, would be the most suitable place for erecting a monument to the memory of Washington, that shall be worthy the character of the exalted subject, and an honor to the Republic? I answer, *here*, in the City of New York—the metropolis of the Union—the Empire City of the Empire State. We are more able to undertake such a costly work than any other city in the whole Union, and we should be willing and anxious to perform the pleasing task, for we have been more benefitted and enriched by the labors of Washington and his compatriots, than the people of any other portion of the country. Our citizens are amply able to meet the expenses of such an undertaking, and would, no doubt, be willing to pledge themselves to contribute any amount of money required—provided they could receive a satisfactory guarantee from those having the matter in charge, that the work would be commenced at a given time, and prosecuted to a speedy completion.

The project of erecting a monument to the memory of Washington, in this city, has engaged the attention of a few of our leading men for a number of years past; and, some five or six years since, a number of those patriotic citizens, actuated by the most praise-worthy motives, applied to the legislature for a charter for this purpose. Their request was at once complied with—a charter was granted, and a Board of Trustees were appointed to take charge of the work. Some feeble efforts were made to raise the necessary funds, some little excitement was created in the public mind, but the attention of the people was soon diverted to other objects, and there the matter rested. But after an undisturbed slumber of a few years, the subject was again revived by a few of those who had contributed liberally to the funds; and the question was asked, if any person could tell what had become of the original trustees, and the funds which they had collected. But the question meeting with no satisfactory response, the legislature was again applied to, to appoint a new board of trustees. This request was readily complied with, and a new set of trustees were appointed, with full power to collect funds, and carry on the work to its completion. This new board numbered among its members some of the most intelligent, enterprising and wealthy of our citizens; and under such favorable auspices, the friends of this laudable enterprise hoped to see the work commenced and prosecuted with the utmost vigor. But they have again been disappointed; and the whole subject appears to have been consigned to oblivion. Whether this second failure was owing to a want of proper management on the part of the trustees, or to the absence of the right kind of spirit in the breasts of the people, is a secret which has not yet been made public. At any rate, we are just where we were in the beginning, with the whole field of enterprise open before us, on which we are at liberty to act as we may think proper.

Fellow Citizens: Having now, I trust, satisfactorily shown that it is the duty of the people of this country to rear a monument to the memory of Washington, that shall transmit his name and the greatness of his character to the people of future times; and that the City of New York, the great metropolis of this mighty nation, is the place for its location, the next important inquiry is—"When shall the noble work be commenced?" The reply to this important question must be obvious to all those who take a commendable interest in the matter—and I believe their name is legion: *Now—at once*; before the sands of another year shall have run around. Delays are dangerous; procrastination is the thief of time; and what we would do well and willingly, we must do quickly. Let the people *will it*—let them unite as one man, and decide that it *shall be done*—and my life upon it, the monument will be completed in less than five years from this time. That which the people of this city decide upon doing, they have the energy and ability to perform. Let us, then, resolve that the Washington Monument shall be built—that it shall

be built *now*. Let the corner-stone at once be laid; and let the work be commenced with a firm determination that its progress shall not be impeded; and that each revolving sun shall witness an increase in its upward flight, until its cap-stone shall be gilded with the bright rays of his glorious refulgence.

Having now fully determined that the monument shall be built, and that its location shall be in the city of New York, it will not, perhaps, be out of place in this connection to dwell for a moment upon the plan most proper to be adopted. As far as it regards myself, I should be perfectly willing to adopt the plan proposed by Mr. Pollard; but should a more acceptable model be offered, let it at once be substituted. The model prepared by Mr. Pollard is the best that I have seen, and it does honor to the head and the heart of the designer. Grand in its conception—chaste and beautiful in its style—noble and majestic in its proportions, and magnificent in its outlines—it would be the wonder and admiration of the present, and command the respect and veneration of future generations. In its archives might be deposited such of the relics and trophies of the Revolution, as could be purchased or obtained by donations; its lower halls might be fitted up into vast libraries, for the reception of such books and manuscripts as would from time to time be presented to the Association; and the upper halls might be occupied as galleries for the safe-keeping and exhibition of the portraits and statues of the heroes, orators and statesmen, who were instrumental in achieving our Independence. In one of the principal halls, I would have deposited the original subscription lists of all those who contributed to the work, with their names, occupations, places of residence, and the amount which each individual subscribed, attached. Such a record of the founders and builders of such a mighty edifice, would be an object of nearly as much curiosity and veneration to the three millions of freemen who shall inhabit this city a hundred years hence, as the monument itself.

I am not, however, very particular about the form or style of the monument, so that it be grand in its dimensions, and majestic in its appearance. Let it not, at any rate, be a mere bubble that shall glitter in the sun-light, and dazzle the eye for a day—no unsubstantial toy for the admiration of the present generation only—but an edifice that shall stand while the earth stands, and transmit the name of Washington down to the latest period of time. Let it be such a Monument as Earth never saw before, for it will be dedicated to the memory of Earth's Paragon of human greatness! Let its foundation be laid deep in the solid earth, and let its summit tower high above all surrounding objects—the delight and admiration of every beholder—beautiful in the sunshine, majestic in the storm; the last object that shall linger on the gaze of the wanderer as he steams it down our noble bay, and the first that shall break upon his enraptured vision when he returns.

Fellow Citizens: Methinks I now hear you all, as with one voice, exclaim: "The Washington Monument shall be built—shall be built here, in the city of New York—shall be built by the contributions of her own citizens—and shall be built *now*." The next question, then, that comes up for our consideration is: "*How are the funds for such a vast and magnificent undertaking to be raised? and by whom?*"

Although it might appear like madness, in an humble individual like myself, to enter upon the discussion of a question of such weight and magnitude, still I feel emboldened to make the attempt, however visionary the scheme may be considered by those better able to enlighten the public on the subject. How, then, shall the necessary funds for the construction of this mighty edifice be raised? I answer, by the voluntary contributions of the citizens of the city and county of New York *alone*, without distinction of age, sex, creed, birth or condition. A costly work like this, destined to remain forever in our midst, should be erected by the free contributions of our own citizens, without having resort to our distant brethren for aid. As for myself, I would rather see the stone remain beneath the earth's surface, unquarried, than see it worked into a monument to beautify and adorn the city, at the expense of our brethren in distant parts of the Union. Let it be the gift of the people of New York to the people of the Republic; that other cities may be led to emulate our example, and contend with us for the palm which patriotism awards to the distinguished benefactors of their country. Let us then perform our duty, and the time is not far distant when every city in the land will be graced with a similar monument to the memory of Washington, until we shall be known throughout the world, as the Great Monumental Republic.

But how shall we go at work to collect sufficient funds for the erection of such an expensive structure, without the assistance of our fellow countrymen in other cities and towns? I beg leave to propose a plan, which I recommend to the calm consideration of those who have full control over the whole subject.* I will estimate the whole cost of the monument at \$500,000, and the time necessary for its construction, at five years; which, I believe, is the highest estimate of money and time necessary for its erection. A correct census of the city would, probably, exhibit a population of 400,000 souls; one-fourth, at least, of whom would be able to contribute something towards such a noble work. Suppose—and I think the supposition within the bounds of possibility—suppose that 100,000 of our population should agree to contribute \$1,00 a year, for five years, towards defraying the expenses of the contemplated monument, what would be the result? Why, at the end of five years, we should present the country with a monumental structure to the memory of Washington, such as no other country has ever reared to the memory of its most distinguished benefactor. It would be an ornament to the city—an honor to the country—and would com-

mand the respect and admiration of the world. And is there an individual among us, male or female, who has arrived at the age of manhood or womanhood, who would not contribute the petty pittance above-named towards the erection of such a noble and magnificent monument? Is there a single individual, among the 100,000 referred to, who could not contribute the sum specified, without depriving themselves of any of the comforts or necessities of life? No; not one. But would they be *willing*? that's the question; try them once, and see. Only let the word go forth that the Washington Monument *shall be built*, and there is not a seamstress-girl or apprentice-boy in the city, but would willingly contribute their dollar a year toward the accomplishment of such an object.

But will not some of the 100,000, above referred to, neglect to pay their subscriptions when called on for that purpose? Such a thing might take place, it is true; but the few who could thus dishonor themselves, would not retard the progress of the work, for their delinquencies would be more than made up by contributions from other sources. There are many individuals among us who are abundantly able, and who stand ready and willing, as soon as they can see a prospect of the good work being commenced, to contribute to the tune of hundreds and thousands of dollars, if required. Besides all this, donations and contributions would flow into the treasury from various other sources. I will venture to predict, that there is not a theatre or any other place of public amusement in the city, that would not contribute as much as one free benefit, yearly, to the funds of such a popular and laudable undertaking.

Let the public mind be once properly awakened upon the subject, and my word for it, you will find the people not only willing to contribute all that is required, but impatient to see the work in progress, and hurrying on to its completion. But how is the public mind to be roused up and called into action, and made to feel and comprehend the importance of such an undertaking? Let me suggest a plan for the consideration of those who have the full control of the whole subject in their hands. If tried, it would do no harm, and might possibly prove successful. Action, energetic action, is all that is required to set the ball in motion, and once fairly put in motion, it will not cease rolling until the noble work shall have been completed. Let the trustees of the association once more wake up, and bestir themselves on the subject. They have a solemn duty to perform in this matter, and if they refuse to make use of such means as they have in their power, to bring the question to a favorable issue, a betrayed and indignant public will most assuredly hold them to account for their neglect. Let them, then, without further delay take hold of the matter in earnest, and issue a card to the public, *pledging their sacred word of honor*, that the monument shall be commenced at a specified time, and that it shall be hurried forward with all possible dispatch. Having thus pledged

themselves to the people that the work shall be immediately commenced, and that its progress and completion will depend upon the liberality of a generous public, let them issue a call for a public meeting in the Park, to take the whole matter into consideration. Let the whole population of the city, without distinction of sex, birth, politics or religion be invited to attend, and decide upon the all-important question: "Shall the Empire city of the Republic, by the voluntary contributions of her own citizens, erect a monument to the memory of Washington, that shall be worthy the high character which she now maintains throughout the whole length and breadth of the land?" Such a call would be responded to by such a mighty gathering of the people as was never before witnessed on the American Continent, upon any occasion. Let this Monster Meeting, be an all-day meeting: let it be called in the morning, and let it be continued until the setting of the sun—"no postponement on account of the weather." Let all political differences and party animosities be buried in the grave of the past, for this day at least; and let all the distinguished orators, of every creed and party in the city, be invited to address the different sections of the meeting. Such a mighty demonstration of "**WE, THE PEOPLE,**" convened together on such an occasion, and in such a glorious cause, would cause the dormant flame of patriotism to burn anew in every bosom, and light the fire of generous sympathy in every breast. Every orator's soul would be the well-spring of eloquence, and every tongue would be a flame of patriotic fire, from which would issue "thoughts that breathe, and words that burn." Futile and feeble, as I know would be the effort, I feel that I should like to be present, and address one of the grand divisions of such an assemblage, on such a glorious and joyful occasion. Such a meeting of freemen, convened for such a noble purpose, might loosen the mute-bound tongue to speechfulness, and cause it to break forth in strains of eloquence that would warm the coldest heart, while those who never heard before, would wondering gaze and obedient listen. In the beautiful and inspiring language of poetry—

"Such a cause
Might warm the torpid earth, put hearts in stones,
And stir the ashes of our ancestors,
Till from their tombs our warrior sires come forth,
Range on our side, and cheer us on to victory."

Let the meeting be held, then, fellow citizens—let the united voice of the people go forth, that the work shall be commenced—let **ACTION** be our watch-word, and unceasing perseverance our *rallying cry*—and not five years shall have elapsed before we shall see our noble city graced with an appropriate monument to the memory of Washington.

The evening of this great day of joy and jubilee should likewise be devoted to the same noble cause. The patriotic enthusiasm already warmed into existence, should not be allowed to

cool: but the excitement should be kept up, and not until the people have unanimously resolved that the monument shall be built, should the question cease to be agitated. A forum should be raised in every public room in the city, around which the now excited people should gather, and shout forth their patriotic enthusiasm, until not a single individual could be found who would dare to raise his voice in opposition to the measure. Let the experiment be tried—let the public mind be fairly awakened to the necessity and importance of such an undertaking—let the love of city pride be stirred up and brought into action—let the lambent flame of patriotism be kindled in every bosom—and, then, should the noble work languish and die for the want of suitable nourishment to sustain it and bring it to maturity, let us forever after be branded as a community of selfish and ungrateful demagogues, unworthy the blessings we enjoy, and the proud position we occupy—“degenerate sons of noble sires”—and no longer fit to be classed among the the enlightened citizens of a free people.

But such will not be the case. We are not a people who resolve to do that which we have not the means to accomplish, and the will to perform; instances, to prove which, are not wanting in the history of our noble State and Empire city. In the construction of the Erie Canal, the character of our State stands redeemed in the eyes of the whole country, as the bold originator and liberal promoter of vast works of internal improvement; and in the erection of the Croton Aqueduct—the greatest public work of modern times—our city has proved herself a worthy offspring of her noble parent. Having accomplished thus much for the benefit of the trade and commerce of the mighty West, and for the happiness and comfort of our own citizens, let us now go bravely at work, and show our love and veneration for constitutional law and republican freedom, by erecting a monument to the memory of Washington, that shall be alike honorable to ourselves, as the metropolis of the nation, and to the high character of the illustrious personage whose name it will bear. By doing this, we shall have performed an act worthy of ourselves, of the age and nation in which we live, and we shall then be known throughout the world, not only as the great emporium of commerce, the seat of intelligence, refinement, and the arts, but as the great Island City of Fountains and Monuments.

On the morning succeeding this mighty demonstration of the people, in Committee of the Whole on the State of the Washington Monument, let the Trustees of the Association prepare themselves with a list, of substantial parchment, that shall extend from White Hall Dock to King's Bridge, and commence the work of enrolling the names of such of our citizens as are willing to contribute to the undertaking. Let this list be divided into as many parts as there are election districts in the city, and let a responsible person from each district take charge of one of these

lists, with particular instructions to be sure and place it before every individual in his district, for their signatures. When the whole city has been thus fairly canvassed, if sufficient encouragement is not manifested, in the amount of the subscriptions obtained, to justify the trustees in commencing the work, then let the project of erecting a monument to the memory of Washington, in the City of New York, be at once and forever abandoned. As an inducement for every person to subscribe, at least one dollar a year, I would have it universally understood, that every such subscriber should be entitled to receive and hold, during his life, A FREE TICKET OF ADMISSION, to the library, the galleries, the archives, and every other part of the monument; and that all the original lists, containing, in their own hand-writing, the names of the subscribers, should be neatly framed and hung upon the walls of one of the rooms, which should be appropriated exclusively to such a purpose, forever. The apartment devoted to this purpose should be denominated "The Hall of the Subscribers to the New York Washington Monument." Such a collection of the autographs of the PRESENT, would be one of the most valuable and interesting legacies THEY could leave to FUTURE generations. They would, by this means, rear a lasting monument to their own memory, as well as to that of their illustrious countryman, WASHINGTON.

And, now, is there a single individual who prides himself on being a New-Yorker, fool-hardy enough to doubt the practicability of such an undertaking? If there be one such, from my soul I pity him! As for myself,

"I had rather be a dog, and bay the moon,
Than such a Roman."

If there be one such, coldness must dwell in his heart, and obtuseness in his intellect! The darkness of such a mind, would require the full force of the most powerful Drummond Light to illuminate the murky dungeons of its benighted brain.

What say you, then, gentlemen composing the board of trustees of the Washington Monument Association? Shall the attempt be made? Shall the experiment be tried? Or shall the thing be deemed one of the impossibilities of the age, and be suffered to remain in its present torpid state? Or shall not one more last and successful effort be made? Let but the proclamation go forth that the monument shall be built, and see how the people will fly to your assistance. Wake up, then, from your slumbers, shake off your sluggishness, and prepare for action.

What say you to the Twenty-Fifth day of November, as the day for calling a Monster Meeting in the Park, to take the subject into consideration? In many respects, that would be a most desirable and appropriate day for such a meeting. That is the ever-glorious Anniversary of the Evacuation of the City by the British—and of the triumphant entry of Washington at the head

of the Veterans of the Revolution. It will be a great National Holy-Day among our citizens ; a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving, of joy and jubilee, among all classes of the people. The whole military force of the city will then be out, glittering in their gay and martial attire ; the sound of martial music will be heard from every quarter, and flags and banners will stream in the sunshine, and flutter in the breeze, from every corner. The city will be filled with strangers from all parts of the country, all anxious to participate in the festivities of the occasion. The spirit of liberty will animate every heart, and gratitude to the memory of the Founders of the Republic will thrill through every bosom, and not less than half a million of happy and contented freemen will throng our streets, ready to unite in the all-glorious exclamation—"Long live the Republic, and all honor to the illustrious name of the immortal Washington!"

Let the call be made, and let the wishes of the people be heard on the subject. Such a mighty demonstration of the public mind would raise such a feeling of pride and patriotism in the hearts of the people as no man among us ever dreamed of. Once more, I repeat it, let the meeting be held. Let all the orators of the city be there, and let the inspiring voice of lofty and soul-stirring eloquence be heard from every stand ; and let the glad shouts of a united people mingle with the roar of artillery and the strains of martial music, until the very heavens ring with the responsive exclamation : "The monument shall be built!" The ghost of many a martyred patriot would visit such a meeting, and unite in such a demonstration of national rejoicing—the fleshless bones of many a veteran warrior, who had fought and died in his country's service, would rattle together in their unconfined graves with joy, at the thought of such a gathering of the people, for such a purpose, for they would feel their deeds of valor were about to be honored in this tribute of the nation's gratitude to the memory of the illustrious chieftain who had so often led them forth to battle and to victory.

It was here that the army of the revolution was disbanded ; it was here that the immortal leader of the armies who achieved our Independence bade a final farewell to his compatriots in the field of carnage ; and, it was here, in the old Federal Hall, that once stood where our Custom House Palace now stands, that our own beloved Washington was inaugurated, the first Chief Magistrate of the United States. The city of New York—the great metropolis of this mighty nation—the theatre of some of the most interesting incidents in the life of Washington—what place more appropriate to erect a suitable monument to his memory. The citizens of New-York—the wealthiest and most prosperous community in the Republic—what people more able or better prepared to contribute the funds necessary for such a work. The twenty-fifth of November—the anniversary of one of the most important epochs in our history—what day more appropriate for holding a public meeting for the fur-

therance of so worthy an object? Our beautiful and capacious Park—the scene of all our great gatherings and rejoicings—what spot better adapted for the accommodation of such a monster meeting of the people? The twenty-second of February—the all-glorious and ever-to-be-remembered birth-day of the Father of his Country—what day more appropriate for the laying of the corner-stone of such an edifice? The whole city and surrounding country would be present, and unite, heart and soul, in the festivities of the occasion. It would be a great and glorious day among our citizens—the proudest day New York ever witnessed.

Once more I repeat it—Let the monument be built! It can be done—and if the people once *will it*, it will be done. There is not an individual in the city who would not be benefitted by it far beyond the amount he contributed towards its erection, no matter what that sum may be. The money collected for this purpose would not be taken out of the city. It would go into the hands of our best mechanics, artisans, and laborers—be again expended among us, and much of it would return again to the very pockets from which it was taken. Let it be the work of New York in every sense of the word. Let it be built with our own money, and let the labor be performed by our own workmen. Every individual in the city would be benefitted, directly or indirectly, by such a work. It would double the value of all real estate in its immediate vicinity, as soon as its location was determined upon. It would give an impetus to every kind of business, and cause renewed activity in every department of trade. The city would be constantly filled with travellers, who would come thousands of miles to see it, and spend their money among us. Merchants from every section of the Union, who had been in the habit of purchasing their merchandise in other cities, would come to see the Great Monument, and buy their goods of our merchants. People who had never visited the city before, would flock here in multitudes from every part of the country to gaze upon and admire this sublime and magnificent structure—New York's munificent tribute of gratitude and respect to the Father and Founder of the republic! Such a work would impoverish no man's pocket—would take no money out of the city: but it would be the means of bringing into the city, annually, thousands of dollars that would never be brought here, were the monument not constructed. Who, then, so poor that he would not cheerfully contribute five dollars towards the erection of such a noble edifice, were it merely designed as a public ornament to adorn and beautify the city? Who so indifferent about the character of his own good name, that he would not give this paltry sum, that it might be transmitted down to future times, in the same monument that shall ensure immortality to the august name of WASHINGTON.

Fellow Citizens! Let it not be said that New York is too poor to meet the expense of such a vast and costly work. Let it not

go forth to the world that our poverty prevents us from rendering this merited tribute of our gratitude to the memory of a great and distinguished national benefactor. Such is not the case. Let it not be said that a city numbering nearly half a million of inhabitants, and containing a hundred *millionaires*, and half that number of thousand merchant princes, is too poor to build a monument to the memory of him to whom they are indebted for their present wealth and prosperity. We have those among us who can sport their thousand dollar carriages, and give their thousand dollar balls and parties, without any fears of beggaring their fortunes. We do not set up the plea of poverty, when called upon to contribute to ten dollar dinners, got up in honor of some foreign scribbler of questionable character, who comes here to fatten upon our charity for awhile, and then return home and vilify our institutions and ridicule our national peculiarities. We esteem it a high privilege to be permitted to witness the immodest feats of a Dutch dancing-girl, who exhibits herself before us, almost in a state of nudity, at a dollar a sight. We find it no easy matter to obtain a seat in the Tabernacle, "tickets one dollar each," when a Templeton sings, or a Norwegian Bull holds forth on the fiddle; and when the "Lion Pianist" makes his appearance, labeled with the approbation of half the courts of Europe, we set all manner of restraint at defiance, and hurry into his august presence, impatient to listen to the artificial thunder forced out of a seven-octave piano by this more than Apollo of music, no matter what the price of admission. But I have no particular fault to find on this subject. This is all well enough in its way for those who like the sport, and have plenty of money with which to pay the fiddler; but while we are thus engaged in encouraging and patronising foreign artists, let us not forget that we are Americans, and that those of our own countrymen who have devoted their lives and fortunes to the service of their country merit some small portion of our gratitude and respect. If, then, we cannot afford to pay this small tribute of respect to the memory of WASHINGTON, we deserve to return again to that bondage from which he so nobly and successfully freed us. But it will not be on account of our poverty, but because of our ingratitude, if we neglect to do our duty in this matter.

What but the love of immortal fame—the ever-present desire to be remembered—the undying hope that his name may live in the grateful recollections of his countrymen in after-times, prompts the statesman to forego his own comfort for the public good, or induces the patriot hero to peril his life on the battlefield in defence of his country? 'Tis this fond desire to be remembered—this "longing after immortality"—this hope that his name and memory may enjoy a bright and glorious hereafter—that cheers the patriot's heart and nerves his arm for action, when all is dark and gloomy, and bids him once more strike for fame and country. Do away with this motive to honorable ambition

—cease to revere and honor the memory of those who dare and die for their country—let them feel that no glorious future would be their portion—that no memorial of a nation's gratitude would mark their graves—that no national anthem would swell with their praises, and recount to future generations the thrilling story of their mighty achievements—and what would be the result? Do away with this high and holy motive to honorable ambition, and we should soon become a nation without a name—a country without a government. No people who neglect to pay proper honor and respect to the memory of their departed benefactors can long remain in a free, prosperous, and happy condition.

Cowper, one of England's noblest and most inspired bards, in lofty and glowing strains, hath sung—

“Patriot's have toiled, and, in their country's cause
Bled nobly; and their deeds, as they deserve,
Receive proud recompense.”

Would to heaven, that this noble sentiment could be applied to the self-denying patriots who promulgated our Declaration of Independence, and those who fought the battles of our Revolution! But, alas! many of their names are already forgotten—and the graves of most of the great leaders in each yet remain uncommemorated. Let us no longer delay action in this matter, for they richly merit all the honor we can bestow upon their memories. Let us show a becoming respect for their characters, and pay suitable tribute to their names and memories, and we need have no fear of the future. Let us do our duty to the memory of the “departed worthies” of our country, and we need have no fears that the future honor and welfare of the nation will be neglected. But do away with the motive that prompts to great and noble deeds—destroy this mainspring to honorable ambition, and where will you find your future patriot statesman to sound the alarm of approaching danger? where the noble patriot warrior to lead your columns on to battle, when the hour for action arrives? Let us, then, vindicate the character of our country from the merited reproaches which have been so long heaped upon us by foreign nations on account of our ingratitude to the memory of our country's most illustrious benefactor. Let the city of New York now redeem the pledge which she has twice made to the people of the Union, that a monument to the memory of Washington should be erected in this city. Let us arise in all the greatness of our strength and the majesty of our power; and let the earthquake voice of a united people thunder forth the joyful proclamation, till every ear shall ring with the glad tidings, and every tongue shall respond to the thrilling exclamation, **THE MONUMENT SHALL BE BUILT!** In a word—let it be no longer said that WASHINGTON'S is a name without a memory—a grave without a MONUMENT.

Your fellow-citizen and humble servant,

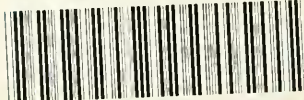
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